

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 7-8, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hengst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,299). Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended.

With respect to Claims 1 and 7, Hengst does not disclose "a plurality of annunciators, wherein one of said annunciators indicates said selected one of said vehicle functions when selected by rotating said knob at said first level." Therefore, Claims 1 and 7 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 2 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from the independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1 and 7.

With respect to Claim 13, Hengst does not disclose "indicating said one of said vehicle functions using an annunciator when said one of said vehicle functions is selected by rotating said knob at said first level." Therefore, Claim 13 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,299) in view of Bollgohn (U.S. Pat. No. 6,769,320). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-5 and 9-11 depend directly or indirectly from amended Claims 1 and 7, respectively. Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to correspond to Claims 1 and 7, respectively. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to claim subject matter previously disclosed by Applicants.

With respect to Claims 3 and 9, as in Claims 1 and 7, Applicants claim annunciators that are different than the annunciators disclosed by Bollgohn. Specifically, Applicants' annunciators 26a-26e indicate a function selected by rotating the knob 12 at the rest level (see lines 82-83, page 4). Unlike Applicants, Bollgohn discloses annunciators 48A-48D that are mounted on respective press switches 18A-18D and that indicate a function selected by pressing a corresponding press switch (see column 5, lines 61-64).

Unlike Bollgohn, Applicants' annunciators 26a-26e are not mounted on press switches. Additionally, unlike Bollgohn, Applicants' annunciators 26a-26e indicate functions selected by rotating the knob 12 and not by pressing press switches. Finally, unlike Bollgohn, Applicants' annunciators 26a-26e indicate functions when the knob 12 is rotated and not when press switches are pressed. Thus, Bollgohn does not teach or suggest an annunciator that indicates the selected function when the function is

selected by rotating the knob. Accordingly, Claims 3 and 9 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 4-5 and 10-11 depend directly or indirectly from the independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9.

Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,299) in view of Goldenberg (U.S. Pat. No. 6,636,197). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

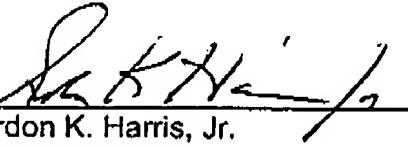
Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 6 and 12 depend directly or indirectly from the independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Gordon K. Harris, Jr.
Reg. No. 28615

Ralph E. Smith
CIMS 483-02-19
DaimlerChrysler Intellectual Capital Company LLC
DaimlerChrysler Tech. Center
800 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326-2757
Phone: 248-944-6519